THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 9. SATURDAY, MAY 15TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 7 to 10. p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, May 16th at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Frazer Smith. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker, Mr. R. W. Sorensen.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.—Mr. Peter Petroff, Mrs. Walker. Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Monday, May 17th, 8 p.m. — Poplar, 20 Railway Street—**General Members' Meeting.**
Tuesday, May 18th, 3 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Moor. Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Nurse Smith.
8 p.m.—Salmon Lane—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Poplar, 20 Railway Street—Mr. Carlton Smith. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Wednesday, May 19th, 8 p.m. — Poplar, Chrisp Street—Mr. Everett.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Miss Feek.
Thursday, May 20th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Mrs. Scurr. Chair: Mrs. Parsons
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard Street—Miss M. Richardson.
8 p.m.—Hackney, Old Gravel Pit Hall—Public Meeting.
Friday, May 21st, 3 p.m.—Poplar, 20 Railway Street—Mrs. Tyson. Chair: Mrs. Drake
8 p.m.—Piggott Street—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
Sunday, May 30th.—WOMEN'S MAY DAY.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.) Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

Glasgow Corporation women tram conductors are to be paid 27s. a week, and uniform. Most corporations pay a minimum wage to men conductors of 29s. Some men get from 32s. to 34s. a week.

THE PROGRESS OF VOTES FOR WOMEN.

WOMEN'S EXHIBITION IN CAXTON HALL.

In the midst of War's excitements and horrors people too often forget those silent patient workers, whose toil is necessary to the Armies and Navies, and is the bedrock on which our civilisation is erected.

The Women's Exhibition at the Caxton Hall has given unknowing and unthinking people an opportunity to judge for themselves the sweating of the women Army contract workers, which the E.L.F.S. and others have implored the Government to abolish.

One of the women, who brought a bundle of soldiers' trousers from Poplar, in order that she might carry on her accustomed work, is Mrs. A. She is a widow with a delicate little boy to keep. She has two sons in the Navy who are married, and one unmarried son in the Army. If what she earns were not supplemented by the allowance she gets on his account she could not live. Yet she gets up at half-past five in the morning and works until late at night, whilst her little boy helps with the housework and gets the meals ready when he comes in from school, in order that his mother need not stop her work.

From day to day the homeworkers do not know what work will be given out to them at the factories. Sometimes they will find there is no work when they apply for it, sometimes it is better or worse paid. At the Caxton Hall Mrs. A has been *finishing* soldiers' trousers at 2½d. a pair. She has to soap the bottoms of the trousers then turn the hem and fell it. She has to put in the seat linings and what is called the "curtain" or "back holland," also the band of lining round the top; she has to put on twelve buttons and tack and sew part of the fly. She can finish a pair of trousers in an hour, but as the day wears on her speed diminishes.

Out of the 2s. 6d. a dozen pairs of trousers that she is paid for her work, she has to buy black and white cotton, soap and thread. A pennyworth of soap does twelve pairs of trousers, a threepenny reel of thread does two dozen pairs, a threepenny reel of black cotton lasts a week, and a penny reel of white cotton a week and a-half.

No work is given out on Saturdays so she is obliged to lose more time than she likes at the week-end, but working as hard as she can during the rest of the week she earns 7s. 6d. a week, in an average week, but sometimes she is kept waiting for work, and can only make about 5s. She thinks that if work were given out on Saturdays and she were never kept waiting she could make 10s. a week on this particular sort of trousers.

Some of the other sorts of khaki trousers are worse paid. She only got 2s. a dozen for those she was doing a short time ago. The bottoms were already stitched up, and the bands had not to be lined, but she could only make from 6s. to 7s. a week at them. The stuff was very hard and thick. Before that she was finishing tweed jackets at 7d. a dozen, and had to buy a pennyworth of thread for each dozen.

Mrs. B is the mother of five children. The youngest, just over two months old, she took with her to the Caxton Hall. Her husband, a labourer, gives her 17s. a week to do the housekeeping on, and as she cannot pay rent and feed seven people on it, she earns as much as she can on her own account.

The little baby cries a great deal, and the mother's poor eyes are very red and swollen. She thinks it is the "funny colours" of the khaki, "sometimes they are a brownish colour, sometimes like a sage green, and sometimes a bright yellowish colour that seems to hurt my eyes." Mrs. B's mother tells her it is not so much the colour of the khaki, but having to work so hard whilst suckling the baby.

Mrs. B is finishing soldiers' overcoats. They are very thick and heavy. She has to stitch the collar down round the inside of the neck, put on a hanger made of cloth, stitch in the sleeve linings round the armholes, put on three hooks and three eyes, fell part of the inside seams, fell the back panel, fell the sides of the pocket and stitch half of it in. There is a flannel yoke lining to the coat, which has to be tacked down to

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POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL,
20 RAILWAY STREET.
Public Meeting
SUNDAY, MAY 16th, at 8 p.m.
Mr. PETROFF
On "RUSSIAN WOMEN IN THE MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM."
Miss Sylvia PANKHURST
Mrs. WALKER
Recitations by Madame GODFREY. ADMISSION FREE.

WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Rd.
Public Meeting
SUNDAY, MAY 16th, at 8 p.m.
MRS. CYON
On "WOMEN'S PART IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS."
Mr. R. W. SORENSEN.
Chair .. .. Miss MANICOM.
MUSIC. ADMISSION FREE.

NO SENSE OF PROPORTION.

In the House of Commons on April 20th, Mr. King drew attention to the fact that a labourer, who was without money to buy food for his family and took six pheasants from a pen, was sentenced to six months hard labour by the Midhurst bench. Mr. McKenna refused to reduce the sentence. Men have frequently been given no more for the grossest kind of assaults on little girls.

For instance, the Tunbridge Wells Borough Bench imposed a fine of 19s. 6d., including costs, on George Frederick Webb, who assaulted a girl of 15 on the Tunbridge Wells Common. This was his third conviction.

A VESTED INTEREST IN WAR.

In the House of Commons, on May 5th, Mr. Snowden drew attention to the fact that the Whitehead Torpedo Company, of Weymouth, has a branch at Fiume, in Hungary, at which torpedoes, submarines, destroyers, floating mines, and other armament accessories are made for the Austrian Government, and are now being used against us in the War. This gives point to the resolution carried by the Women's International Congress at the Hague, that armaments shall be nationalised, and their manufacture not left in the hands of international rings of private speculators, whose interest it is to promote war.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

Every Member must come to the—

GENERAL MEETING

Next Monday Ev

AT THE

WOMEN'S HAL. AR.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives

Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m., at
— 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. —

PUBLIC MEETING,

Tuesday, May 18th, at 8 p.m.

Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E.

SPEAKERS:

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
Mrs. NEIL and Mrs. THOMPSON
(Soldiers' wives).

PUBLIC MEETING

AT THE

Old Gravel Pit Hall, Valette St., Hackney

Thursday, May 20th, at 8 p.m.

DOORS OPEN AT 7.30. SPEAKERS:

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
Mrs. WALKER
Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY
Chair - Mrs. BOUVIER

MUSIC. ADMISSION FREE.

The

Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
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Annual Subscription: Post free, 6s. 6d.

Vol. II. No. 9.—Sat. May 15th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

LET US NOT BE COWARDS.

The destruction of the Lusitania and the drowning of the people aboard her, has shocked our nation more than the loss of far greater numbers of lives upon the battlefield could do. And this is natural, for the men, women and children on the Lusitania were not soldiers who had gone out to fight and to be fought, and to take the chances of mortal combat, but were harmless voyagers, destroyed, without even a chance of surrender to superior force. It is a ghastly, cruel happening, an unjust catastrophe brought down upon the innocent and helpless. But shall we revenge ourselves on other helpless people who are living in our midst, and who are no more to blame, either for the sinking of the Lusitania or for the war itself, than we ourselves?

One of our Poplar members, an English woman by birth, a good woman, a good member, who has done much voluntary work for the Federation and made many and many a little sacrifice for people poorer than herself, is married to a German who has lived peacably and honestly in this country for many years.

On Tuesday night her home was wrecked, all the furniture, everything that she had, even the very tools with which her industrious son and husband earn their living as cabinet makers, were taken away. Her husband, her young son and her daughter disappeared. She came to us distracted; she could find no trace of her dear ones, she knew not whether they were killed or injured, or in prison.

Another woman living near by, whose husband is a German, had her home wrecked and dismantled, and in fear and grief she was prematurely confined, with only the bare floor on which to lay herself.

Stones have been thrown, and little children have been hurt.

Dear friends we must band ourselves together against this sort of barbarism. This is no patriotism. It is cowardice to plunder the homes of those who are too weak to defend themselves. This is the sort of thing that we condemn in others, that we are supposed to be out to fight.

Let us keep our hands clean, and when we see others doing what is wrong, let us speak up and use our influence to prevent it.

Let us not be cowards.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WHOSE FIENDISH DEVICES?

The following extracts from the letter of a prisoner in Germany, who, although a prisoner of war, is being treated as a convict, was read by Lord Robert Cecil in the House of Commons on May 8th:

"We are locked up separately in small cells from 12 feet long to 6 feet broad and not allowed to speak to anybody. A bowl with a little coffee in it forms our breakfast, and a mixture of potatoes and meat our lunch. At about 2.45 we walk in a tiny little yard about 20 yards long for about three-quarters of an hour. Still not allowed to speak, and then back to the cell for the rest of the day. We are allowed to write as much as we like and receive parcels and letters but no smoking at any time. This life will be a nightmare."

Lord Robert Cecil in commenting upon this state of affairs referred to it as "a punishment which is one of the most severe you can inflict upon human beings." Mr. Asquith said: "The maltreatment of prisoners is a form of cruelty which was not even common in the Dark Ages and it appears to have been left, as so many other fiendish devices in this great war, to one of the Christian nations to invent and elaborate."

Mr. Asquith is mistaken. Whatever the treatment of prisoners may have been in the Dark Ages, the present Government may fairly claim to be the inventors of 'fiendish devices' for the torture of prisoners which, with the possible exception of Russia, put every other European country's methods in the shade. Suffrage prisoners, however, were *not* allowed to "write as much as they liked" and "receive parcels and letters." Also they were forcibly fed, not simply as a medical expedient but as a method of deliberate torture. In one case, after he had pushed the tube up her nose (an intensely painful proceeding) the doctor, instead of feeding his "patient," dragged the tube out again exclaiming "*Now*, will you take your food?"

And Mr. Asquith has the effrontery to suggest that Germany was the inventor of "fiendish devices" for the maltreatment of prisoners!

The libel action which the doctors of Holloway Prison are taking against Dr. Frank Moxon in connection with the drugging of suffragist prisoners in Holloway Gaol last year, is being pushed forward and the case is expected to come on in a few weeks. Dr. Moxon is in the R.A.M.C. at the front.

We are at a loss to understand what the Government thinks it can possibly gain by this action.

We announce with regret that Miss Olive Beamish, who has been helping the E.L.F.S. in Bow for some time past, is seriously ill, and is about to undergo an operation for appendicitis.

The first attack occurred whilst she was being forcibly fed in Holloway last year. It was discovered on her release that she was suffering from appendicitis, but it was hoped that as the trouble had been caused artificially it would subside in course of time, but recurring attacks have made an operation imperative.

WHAT IS SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE—!

Ballot boxes have been sent from Canada for the use of Canadian troops at the front, in order that, should a general election take place, they shall not lose the right to exercise the vote, even for once.

Women should take notice of this, if the vote is of use to men in war time, it is useful also to women. After this surely no one will say that a woman's duties in the home should prevent her voting in elections!

McKENNA THE SHIFTY.

The Police Emergency Provisions Bill, which abolishes the right of a policeman to retire on pension after 25 years' service, unless he can provide a medical certificate of unfitness, or gets special permission to retire from the chief officer of the force to which he belongs. When the measure was under discussion in Parliament it was pointed out that unless all the men were treated alike the police feared that there might be favouritism. It was also asked what would happen in the case of men who, after qualifying for their pensions, should be detained in the force, and should then commit some breach of discipline, which would render them liable to forfeit the pensions already earned. It was urged that the men should not be liable to loss of the pensions for which they had already qualified, but only to loss of additional pensions for the additional period. But Mr. McKenna refused to give any definite promise. He seems averse to granting policemen any definite rights on which they can rely. His attitude towards policemen appears to resemble his attitude towards women.

SAILORS' WIVES.

The Admiralty refuses separation allowances to the wives and families of sailors who do not contribute a minimum allotment towards their support. Though separation allowance is contingent on the allotment, Dr. Macnamara says it is unnecessary for the Admiralty to make the allotment compulsory, as is the case in the Army. In a letter to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst on this subject he gives the following figures:—

Before the War, 54,000 men and boys, out of a total of 136,000, or 39 per cent., were sending money home through the machinery of the Admiralty. Since the War, 171,000 men and boys, out of a total of 233,000, or 73 per cent., send money home.

It is interesting to note that the percentage sending home allotments has substantially increased, but we do not think the number justifies the belief that there are no cases in which the wives and children suffer hardship. But even if every man were found to deal justly by his dependents, why should the Admiralty perpetuate a bad rule?

CHILDREN'S WAGES FOR WAR WORK.

A White Paper just issued by the Board of Education gives the following figures for one typical county respecting the wages paid to children who have been exempted from school attendance since the War.

"Two at 6s., one at 5s. 6d., nine at 5s., five at 4s. 6d., six at 4s., one at 3s. and meals, one at 2s. and meals, one lodged and boarded, no pay, three at *nil* (working for parents.)"

If the work of these children under 14 is worth no more than that, there is no possible justification for taking them from school to perform it. But if, as we suspect, they were made to do the work of adults, it forms the strongest possible indictment against the Board of Education for allowing such exemptions, while adult labour, male and female, was in the market.

The L.C.C. is proposing to take on girls from 14 to 18 years of age, in the place of boys, for "light work" in in its warehouses. The wages offered are from 7s. to 14s. At its recent meeting the L.C.C. passed the following amendment to the proposal:

"Provided that the conditions as regards hours of employment and attendance at continuation schools are not less favourable or are more favourable than in the case of warehouse boys."

This is good so far as it goes, but what about the wages? We find it hard to believe that young men of 18 were working for 14s. a week. We hope the girls will insist that wages as well as conditions shall be as good as those accorded to the boys.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

Jane Addams, who presided over the International Congress of Women at the Hague, is widely admitted to be America's foremost citizen. John Burns once said that she was the finest human being he had ever met and many others have endorsed his words.

Miss Addams has presided over many conferences of all kinds. She is the most popular president in the United States and the favorite mediator in trades disputes. Her strong true sympathies and gracious dignity would lend weight to any conference over which she might preside, for her influence tends to banish all that is small and trivial and unworthy and to bring out the best and broadest side of those with whom she is brought in contact.

Jane Addams has said that she has never had to do with any conference that was so moving as that Women's Congress which has just been held at the Hague. She says that over the Congress there was a spirit of high import and that it brought with it a revelation of the strength of women's power and the greatness of their contribution towards society.

The rules of the Congress prevented any discussion of methods of warfare employed by the beligerents in this or any war. The Conference did not seek to establish rules of warfare, for its object was to lay the foundations of the day when wars shall cease.

The main idea of the Conference was, that nations must find some means other than war of settling disputes and that women must be brought in to take an equal part with men on a democratic basis in settling international affairs.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

I. Women and War.

1. *Protest.*—We women, in International Congress assembled, protest against the madness and the horror of war, involving as it does a reckless sacrifice of human life and the destruction of so much that humanity has laboured through centuries to build up.

2. *Women's Sufferings in War.*—This International Congress of Women opposes the assumption that women can be protected under the conditions of modern warfare. It protests vehemently against the odious wrongs of which women are the victims in time of war, and especially against the horrible violation of women which attends all war.

II. Action towards Peace.

3. *The Peace Settlement.*—This International Congress of Women of different nations, classes, creeds, and parties, is united in expressing sympathy with the suffering of all, whatever their nationality, who are fighting for their country or labouring under the burden of war.

Since the mass of the people in each of the countries now at war believe themselves to be fighting not as aggressors but in self-defence and for their national existence, there can be no irreconcilable difference between them, and their common ideals afford a basis upon which a magnanimous and honourable peace might be established. The Congress therefore urges the Governments of the world to put an end to this bloodshed, and to begin peace negotiations. It demands that the peace which follows shall be permanent and therefore based on principles of justice, including those laid down in the resolutions adopted by this Congress, namely:

That no territory should be transferred without the consent of the men and women in it, and that the right of conquest should not be recognised.

That autonomy and a democratic parliament should not be refused to any people.

That the Governments of all nations should come to an agreement to refer future international disputes to arbitration or conciliation and to

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(Continued from front page.)

the seams, and she has to put a mysterious running of double thread inside the collar next to the rows of machining—"to compete with the machining"—the workers do not know what this is for, Mrs. B thinks it may be to show people who want hand work that machining on the whole is more regular. Whatever may be its us, Mrs. B says, that the manager always looks first at, this stitching, "and if it's alright he's almost satisfied with the rest."

For all this work Mrs. B is paid 6d. a coat. It takes her 2½ hours to do, and she has had plenty of practice, for she has been making nothing else since November. Before that she was doing Territorials' overcoats. They had no linings. She was paid 4d. a coat, and they took her two hours to do. She has to pay 5d. a reel for her thread.

Mrs. B says that many firms prefer to give out work to those who can finish large quantities in a day, and that at a firm close to the one for which she works, foreign men take cartloads away. These men are paid 4s. 6d. a dozen for finishing the coats, and they give them out to English women to do the work for 2s. a dozen.

Mrs. C machines soldiers' trousers with two pockets for 4s. a dozen. She pays 4d. for a reel of thread, which does for just over twelve pairs, and 6d. for silk which does for the same number of pairs. She also has to buy tailors' soap. She says that the wages average about 3s. 3d. a dozen pairs when deductions are made.

Mrs. C has to work very hard as she has five little children and an invalid husband to keep.

Mrs. D is doing the same work, but the firm for which she works only pay 3s. 9d. a dozen.

Mrs. E, who is finishing soldiers' trousers, has seven children. She gets up at 5.30 a.m. so as to have a long day for work, and does not put her sewing away till 10 p.m. By filling up every minute that she can she earns 6s. a week. One of the children is working as a lift boy and he earns 8s. a week—more than his mother. Her husband, a labourer, was unemployed for five months when War broke out. He and five of the children went into the workhouse. Mrs. E and the eldest boy and the baby took a room together and worked outside. A fortnight after he came out of the workhouse Mr. E had an accident, and now he has just got work again, and is able to give his wife £1 a week towards the housekeeping. But there are debts to pay off, and £1 a week, even with what the boy can give after he has paid for his fares and his mid-day meals out of his earnings, is all too little to keep nine people alive with food at War prices.

Next to Mrs. E sits the brush-maker, a most active member of the E.L.F.S., who makes brushes of all kinds, and can tell the prices paid by brush making firms all over the East End. Brush drawers, who put the bristles in the holes, twist wire round them and finish them off behind, used to get 1s. 1d. or 1s. 2d. a dozen for soldiers' hair brushes in Bow. Then, through agitation by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, Kent's factory was induced to raise its prices to 1s. 7d., and most of the neighbouring firms have followed suit. The prices for soldiers' clothes-brushes are scandalously low. For a brush with 180 holes to be filled, which takes 40 to 45 minutes to do, one firm pays 1s. 2d. a dozen, whilst another firm pays 1s. 10d. a dozen, and yet another 2s. a dozen. This is highly skilled work.

Mrs. F stitches buttons on soldiers' bandoliers, and is paid 2½d. for 60 buttons. By working hard she can manage 60 in an hour. She is a young married woman, and gave up home work when her baby was born. But her husband's employer took 2s. a week off her husband's wages "because of the War," and her husband said she must share the loss equally with him, by having 1s. a week taken off the housekeeping money. As the prices were rising so much she could not make ends meet, so her mother takes charge of the baby whilst she sews.

Mrs. G makes sailors' trousers. This work is a little better paid than khaki work, but the dark stuff is very wearying to the eyes. Mrs. G is paid 5d. a pair for these trousers, and can do a pair in an hour and a quarter. Some pairs are very wide and take five minutes longer, but she is not paid any more for them. Mrs. G has six children. Her husband is a cabinet maker, and gives her 24s. She earns 10s. or 11s. herself, and pays 8s. rent. She gets up at 6 a.m., makes the breakfast, gets the children off to school, does a little housework, and sits down to her sewing machine at 9 o'clock. She works without a break till 11 a.m. Then begins to prepare dinner, going back to the machine at every available moment. At 2 p.m. dinner is cleared away and the children back to school. She can work without a break till 4.30 p.m., when the children come in again. She must give them their tea, but she is at work again within 20 minutes. At 7.30 p.m. the children must be put to bed. At 8 she works again till 10.30 or 11 p.m. Then she has her supper and goes to bed.

She is more fortunate than most of the other women. The work she does is a little better paid, and her husband brings in a little more than theirs do. She feeds and clothes her husband and children a little better than they are able to do perhaps. She was a domestic servant before her marriage, and so has been in contact with a higher standard of living. But 26s. or 27s. a week to feed and clothe and warm eight people leaves the family often lacking what should be considered the barest necessaries. And she is so worn and tired and anxious. One might paint her thin beautiful face and dark sad eyes for those of a martyred saint.

She is being tortured, like thousands of other women, by the prospect of the steadily-mounting cost of living, rising till it swamps the little foothold in the world of people who pay their way, which they keep for themselves and their families by perpetual economies.

They labour day in day out, these sweated women workers, and in spite of their hard toil they cannot earn enough to keep themselves from want.

This is how one authority, who has given a much more generous estimate of the workers' earnings than they frequently receive, calculates that profits made from clothing our soldiers are shared out :—

Cost to Contractors.	Greatcoats. £ s d	Jackets. s d	Trousers. s d
Materials	0 17 7·93	7 1·77	6 2·75
Cost of making, including wages	0 3 3	2 9	0 10
Total cost of Garment ...	1 0 11	9 10¾	7 0¾
Paid by War Office... ...	1 8 0	12 0¼	8 9
Net Profit made by Contractor	0 7 1	2 7¼	1 8¼

This estimate appears to put on to the cost to the contractor of making the garments a percentage for establishment charges, but we must remember that these garments are made in the women's homes. The workers themselves provide the sewing machines, which as a rule they buy on the hire system, paying for them at the rate of 1s. 6d. a week. They provide also, of course, the room to work in and the necessary light.

Perhaps the great mass of the well to do public have been untouched by the exhibition in the Caxton Hall, but there are sweated women workers who have heard of it with a sympathy born of understanding. A letter from one such worker enclosing some woollen pin cushion covers, each crocheted in several colours, was sent to us.

It runs as follows:—

DEAR MISS PANKHURST,—I am sending these covers for you to show for which I am paid 4s. per gross (three a penny)—one hour and a-half to earn a penny, but I must not waste a second; and they keep 2s. 6d. deposit, which they say they will return when I give up working for them. I am a poor widow with 10s. per week to live on, and suffering with serious heart trouble; 53 years of age. Although I cannot do much to help this disgraceful state of affairs to be stamped out, I will do my best for the cause.

Yours respectfully,

In considering the low wages that are paid habitually to women, we must remember how the cost of living is going up. At the Caxton Hall Exhibition the Joint Food Supply committee of associated women's societies had a most interesting exhibit, which showed in actual commodities what has been happening. Here it was plain that the amounts of the things on which working class families mainly subsist of which a given sum of money will buy have shrunk enormously as follows:—

FLOUR.—1910..2 lbs. for 2½d.
1914..1 lb. 1 oz. for 2½d.
1915..1 lb. for 2½d.
SUGAR.—1905..2 lbs. for 3½d.
1914..1¾ lbs. for 3½d.
1915..1 lb. for 3½d.
EGGS.—1905..10 for 6d.
1913..8 for 6d.
1915..5 for 6d.
BUTTER.—1906..1 lb. for 1s.
1914..14 ozs. for 1s.
1915..¾ lb. for 1s.
BACON.—1905..2 lbs. for 1s. 1d.
1913..1¼ lbs. for 1s. 1d.
1915..1 lb. for 1s. 2d.
CHEESE.—1905..1 lb. for 6½d.
1914..¾ lb. for 6½d.
1915..9 ozs. for 6½d.
TEA.—1905..12 ozs. for 6d.
1914..8 ozs. for 6d.
1915..3 ozs. for 6d.
ROLLED OATS.—1914..2 lbs. for 4d.
1915..1 lb. 7 ozs. for 4d.
WOOD.—1910..5 bundles for 2d.
1914..4 bundles for 2d.
1915..2 smaller bundles for 1½d.
MATCHES—1914..12 boxes for 1½d.
1915..6 boxes for 1½d.

The Women's Exhibition in the Caxton Hall was opened on Monday by Olive Schreiner; on Tuesday by George Lansbury; and on Wednesday by Margaret Macmillan. The meetings at which speakers from all the Suffrage Societies took part and the concerts arranged by the Actresses' Franchise League, Miss Helsby, Miss Clark and Miss Fox's Merry Maids were thoroughly appreciated.

Voting on questions of the day went on briskly. The result of the ballot will be announced next week. The E. L. F. S. toy making exhibit aroused much interest and the toys were much admired.

The International Suffrage Exhibit showed hopefully the great world-wide progress of our movement.

WHITHER ?

Whither, whither, pretty child ?
The world is not yet open !
Oh, see how quiet it is all around !
'Tis before daybreak, the streets are mute.
Whither, whither do you hurry ?
'Tis now good to sleep, and
Do you not see, the flowers are still a-dreaming,
Every bird's nest is still silent.
Whither, pray, are you driven now ?
Whither do you hurry, tell me,
And what to do?—"To earn a living !"

Whither, whither, pretty child,
Walking so late at night ?
Alone through the darkness and cold !
And everything is at rest, the world is silent.
Whither does the world carry you ?
You will yet lose your way !
Scarcely has day smiled on you,
How can night help you ?
For it is mute, and deaf, and blind.
Whither, whither, with easy mind ?—
"To earn a living !"

By Morris Rosenfeld, a Polish Jew, who is called in America "The Sweatshop Poet."—translated by Mary Eleanor Kramer.

Send 4/4 for a year's subscription to the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

IS THIS FREEDOM ?

I visited a woman the other day who has nine children, one has just begun work and does not earn much. The husband, whatever he earns, does not allow her more than £1 a week. With 5s. 6d. a week rent to pay, this poor woman simply does not know which way to turn, now that the cost of living has gone up so. She said if she had the courage she would poison herself, and wished somebody would show her a way out of it all. She said no one can understand what such a life is but those that experience it.

I met a child in the market-place crying bitterly because her mother had run away. It appears she was in debt and afraid to meet her husband. I made it my business to find out the end of it, and the woman confessed that if she had not met her sister, who helped her, she really did not know what would have happened. There are seven children, none of whom are at work in this case.

An old lady called on me who came out of the workhouse 11 weeks ago, after working very hard in there about four years. She said she came out thinking she would like some freedom before she died. With her old age pension and that of her husband, making 10s. a week, she paid 2s. 6d. rent, and tried to live on the 7s. 6d. that remained. But she had to confess it was semi-starvation. Old as she was she had come to apply for work.

Another old lady, aged 71 years, applied for work. She was a German who could never afford to become nationalised, having been in England since she was 18 years of age. Her husband was an invalid, aged 76 years. They lived on 5s. a week allowed them by a German society, not being able to get the old age pension because they could not afford to be nationalised. Some people say "serve them right" because they are German, but that is punishing them because they are poor, not because they are German. If we must punish people because they are German we must commence with those in high places. All these things show how much women need the Vote, now more than ever.

C. DRAKE.

What about equal pay for equal work.

In the Censor's department men are paid £550, £400, £300 a year, £5, £4, £3 a week. Women are paid £200 a year, £3 and £2 a week. The principal of equal pay for equal work has been abandoned, but, of course, we must remember that these people are paid by time—not by piece! When we come to inquire into the hours worked we find that most of the women work from 9.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., and most of the men from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.!

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers have decided by a ballot, in which barely 15 per cent. of the members voted, to agree to the employment of handy men and women in the manufacture of shells and fuses, provided they receive the trade union rates, and there is a scarcity of skilled labour.

A correspondent tells us that women teachers at Clark's College, who were paid 25s. a week, had their wages reduced to £1 when war started although the number of their pupils, in some cases over 100, was not reduced. The writer said that recently Clark's College abandoned some of their mixed classes under women teachers, and placed the boys under men teachers, but parents wrote asking that the old plan should be reverted to as more progress had been made under it. The parents' request was complied with.

At a meeting of the members of the Shop Assistants, Warehousemen & Clerks' Union, held in Glasgow, it was agreed that no restriction should be placed on women accepting positions in the distributive trades hitherto filled by men, provided that they received wages based upon the minimum wage scale for Scotland.

A meeting of confectioners' assistants was afterwards held in order to take steps for the formation of a union.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Thanks to four of the Junior Suffragettes and other members and friends who contributed to the success of the poster parades which were held in the West End to advertise the Caxton Hall Exhibition. A large and interested audience listened to our speakers on Sunday in Hyde Park and successful street corner meetings were held in the district. Members are asked to bring friends to the meeting next Sunday in the Women's Hall at 8 p.m. and to support the speakers in Victoria Park at 3 p.m. Members should bear in mind the Women's May Day Demonstration on May 30th. We must get on with our decorations as time is short.

All Bow members regret to hear of Miss Beamish's illness.

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
MRS. MCCHEYNE & MRS. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

A very decided improvement was noticed in the number of people who listened very attentively to Miss Coombs on Tuesday evening last, but we hope to see a still larger number, now the meeting is changed to Thursday. Please let all friends know that "The League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives" has a meeting here on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Any who have relatives serving with the colours should join the Society at once; all you have to pay is 1d. a month and 1d. for card.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

We had the pleasure of hearing Miss Pankhurst on Sunday, May 2nd, at our evening meeting here. This was greatly appreciated, as it is some time since Miss Pankhurst paid us a visit. Mr. Everett also spoke. Our thanks to the two young ladies who recited, the Misses Dryburgh, and to Miss Manicom for playing the piano. On Tuesday evening Mrs. Scurr made a very good speech, and business was discussed afterwards. It was decided to stop choir practise for the present, as the members wish to take advantage of the summer weather. We hope to commence again later on, when we shall welcome some of the young ones who have expressed a desire to join. Miss H. Watts was re-elected Secretary to the Savings' Club, and Miss C. Lagsding was elected as Joint Secretary with her, on the retirement of Mrs. Burgess, who is unable to continue. It was suggested by Mrs. Scurr that we should elect a chairman from among the members, to get some of them used to the speaking. At the Tuesday evening meetings in future we hope to do this.

On Friday afternoon Miss Lynch was the speaker, and Mrs. Walker at Piggott Street in the evening had a good meeting.

On Sunday, May 16th, Miss Mary Richardson and Mr. Peter Petroff will be our speakers, and we look to our members to make this meeting a success.

Collected—Mrs. Bird 13s. 10d., Mrs. Drake 9s. 8½d., Miss Lagsding 2s. 7½d. Self-Denial—Mrs. Ruck 6d., Mrs. Organ 6d., Mrs. Giles 2s. 3½d., Mr. D. 1s. 2d.

***Dreadnoughts* sold week ending May 8th —120.**

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).

Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Please remember May 20th is the date of our meeting at Old Gravel Pit Hall, Valette St. Let us all put forward every effort to make this meeting a huge success.

Hackney members are very proud to have the name of Mary Richardson enrolled as a member of their branch. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed her visit last Thursday. We hope that she will soon come again.

We give Miss Sands a very cordial welcome as a worker in this branch.

Mrs. Walker gave a most suitable address last Tuesday, especially as we had several new people with us. Will someone take a collecting box this week-end?

Members are reminded that all collecting cards and boxes from Self-Denial Week should be handed in at once.

Papers sold 21; distributed 140.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—
55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
***Hon. Sec.*—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,**
94 Ravenscroft Road.

On Thursday Miss Pankhurst and Miss Manicom were the speakers, and a good many turned up to wish the latter many happy returns of the 6th. Several members promised to go up West billing the Caxton Hall Exhibition. These members are thanked also the stewards who turned up at Stratford on Friday night, and Mrs. Mears for meeting Mr. Everett. There was a good Beckton Road meeting and two papers were sold. Will some members please take three other *Dreadnoughts* beside their own and try to sell them? Don't forget Victoria Park Demonstration on May 30th. Procession *via* Chrisp St. as usual. Who will sell papers and collect?

Newcastle tramway men insist that if women are to replace them, women must receive the same wage and must become members of the trade union. Women are already being taken on as cleaners at the tramway sheds at a wage of 6d. an hour. Yet the Government refuses to fix such a minimum for the women who are doing skilled machining and finishing in khaki work!

(*Continued from page 246, col. 4.*)

bring social, moral and economic pressure to bear upon any country which resorts to arms instead of referring its case to arbitration or conciliation.

That foreign politics should be subject to democratic control.

*That women should be granted equal political rights with men.

*NOTE.—The above Resolutions in full are Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

4. *Continuous Mediation.*—This International Congress of Women resolves to ask the neutral countries to take immediate steps to create a conference of neutral nations which shall without delay offer continuous mediation. The conference shall invite suggestions for settlement from each of the belligerent nations, and in any case shall submit to all of them simultaneously reasonable proposals as a basis of peace.

III. Principles of a Permanent Peace.

5. *Respect for Nationality.*—*This International Congress of Women recognising the right of the people to self-government, affirms that there should be no transference of territory without the consent of the men and women residing therein, and urges that autonomy and a democratic parliament should not be refused to any people.

*NOTE.—The Congress declared by vote that it interpreted "no transference of territory without the consent of the men and women in it" to imply that the right of conquest was not to be recognised.

6. *Arbitration and Conciliation.*—This International Congress of Women, believing that war is the negation of progress and civilization, urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to refer future international disputes to arbitration or conciliation.

7. *International Pressure.*—This International Congress of Women urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to unite in bringing social, moral, and economic pressure to bear upon any country which resorts to arms instead of referring to arbitration or conciliation.

8. *Democratic Control of Foreign Policy.* — Since war is commonly brought about not by the mass of the people, who do not desire it, but by groups representing particular interests, this International Congress of Women urges that Foreign Politics shall be subject to Democratic Control; and declares that it can only recognize as democratic a system which includes the equal representation of men and women.

9. *The Enfranchisement of Women.*—Since the combined influence of the women of all countries is one of the strongest forces for the prevention of war, and since women can only have full responsibility and effective influence when they have equal political rights with men, this International Congress of Women demands their political enfranchisement.

IV. International Co-operation.

10. *Third Hague Conference.*—This International Congress of Women urges that a third Hague Conference be convened immediately after the war.

11. *International Organisation.*—This International Congress of Women urges that the organisation of the Society of Nations should be further developed on the basis of a constructive peace, and that it should include:

(*a*) As a development of the Hague Court of Arbitration, a permanent International Court of Justice to settle questions or differences of a justiciable character, such as arise on the interpretation of treaty rights or of the law of nations.

(*b*) As a development of the constructive work of the Hague Conference, a permanent International Conference holding regular meetings in which women should take part, to deal, not with the rules of warfare, but with practical proposals for further International Co-operation among the States. This Conference should be so constituted that it could formulate and enforce those principles of justice, equity, and goodwill in accordance with which the struggles of subject communities could be more fully recognized, and the interests and rights, not only of the great Powers and small nations, but also those of weaker countries and primitive peoples gradually adjusted under an enlightened international public opinion.

The International Conference shall appoint:

A permanent Council of Conciliation and Investigation for the settlement of international differences arising from economic competition, expanding commerce, increasing population, and changes in social and political standards.

12. *General Disarmament.*—This International Congress of Women, advocating universal disarmament and realizing that it can only be secured by international agreement, urges, as a step to this end, that all countries should, by such an international agreement, take over the manufacture of arms and munitions of war and should control all international traffic in the same. It sees in the private profits accruing from the great armament factories a powerful hindrance to the abolition of war.

13. *Commerce and Investments.*—(*a*) The Congress urges that in all countries there shall be liberty of commerce, that the seas shall be free, and the trade routes open on equal terms to the shipping of all nations.

(*b*) Inasmuch as the investment by capitalists of one country in the resourses of another and the claims arising therefrom, are a fertile source of international complications, this Congress urges the widest possible acceptance of the principle that such investments shall be made at the risk of the investor, without claim to the official protection of his Government.

14. *National Foreign Policy.*—(*a*) This International Congress of Women demands that all secret treaties shall be void, and that for the ratification of future treaties the participation of at least the legislature of every Government shall be necessary.

(*b*) This International Congress of Women recommends that National Commissions be created, and International Conferences convened, for the scientific study and elaboration of the principles and conditions of permanent peace, which might contribute to the development of an International Federation.

These Commissions & Conferences should be recognised by the Governments and should include women in their deliberations.

15. *Women in National and International Politics.*—This International Congress of Women declares it to be essential both nationally and internationally to put into practice the principle that women should share all civil and political rights and responsibilities on the same terms as men.

V. The Education of Children.

16. This International Congress of Women urges the necessity of so directing the education of the children that their thoughts and desires may be directed towards the ideal of constructive peace.

VI. Women and the Peace Settlement Conference.

17. This International Congress of Women urges that, in the interests of lasting peace and civilization, the Conference which shall frame the Peace settlement after the war should pass a resolution affirming the need in all countries of extending the parliamentary franchise to women.

18. This International Congress of Women urges that representatives of the people should take part in the conference that shall frame the peace settlement after the war, and claims that amongst them women should be included.

VII. Action to be taken.

19. *Envoys to the Governments.*—In order to urge the Governments of the world to put a end to this bloodshed and to establish a just and lasting peace, this International Congress of Women delegates envoys to carry the message expressed in the Congress Resolutions to the rulers of the belligerent and neutral nations of Europe and to the President of the United States.

These Envoys shall be women of both neutral and belligerent nations, appointed by the International Committee of this Congress. They shall report the result of their missions to the International Women's Committee for constructive peace as a basis for further action.

20. *Women's Voice in the Peace Settlement.* This International Congress of Women resolves that an international meeting of women shall be held in the same place and at the same time as the Conference of the Powers which shall frame the terms of the peace settlement after the war for the purpose of presenting practical proposals to that Conference.

A TERRIBLE STORY.

"Wilhelm Johannes Sprick, a smart-looking German, pleaded guilty to living on the immoral earnings of his wife.

"He was arrested at his house in University Street, and his wife, who was present, said: 'We must do something for a living. We cannot starve. I try to keep myself as respectable as possible.'

"The prisoner, who was at one time a waiter and a chef, and afterwards a chauffeur, said that he had been unable to get work owing to the war. His wife volunteered to do what she had done.

"His wife, a good-looking, well-dressed Englishwoman, carrying a little boy in her arms, said that she had been acting in the way described for about nine months.

"The prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour."

Another case of "virtue" *versus* bread-and-butter. The shame of such a story lies with a nation which offers women such alternatives.

William Rodwell, a barman, aged 24, was charged at Tower Bridge Police Court with assaulting a little girl of ten. He said: "She was to blame."

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. McWilliams 1.0.0, Miss M. A. Pelly 1.0.0, Collection Women's Hall (Sunday) 16.0½, Collection Stratford Town Hall 12.7½, Mr. Broadbear (collected) 4.6, Suffrage Club Collection 1.11, Miss S. Saxby 1.9, Collection Barking Road 1.5½, Mrs. Baker 1.4, Collection, members' meeting, Women's Hall, 1.3½.

SELF-DENIAL FUND.—Mrs. Sadd-Brown 5.0.0, per Mrs. Parsons 1.7.2½, Mrs. Moore and family 12.0, Mrs. R. J. Darley 12.0, Mrs. Walshe 11.6, Miss H. Armes 11.0, Miss E. Lowy 10.0, A. Lowy, Esq. 10.0, Miss Mackenzie 10.0, Mrs. Payne 10.0, Miss A. Frisby 7.6, Mrs. O'Connell 5.1, Collection Sunday, May 2nd, 5.0, A. A. K. 5.0, Mrs. Lobley 5.0, Mrs. Du Vergier 5s., Mrs. Beverley 5.0, Mrs. J. Lomax 2.6, Miss M. Burgess 2.6, Mrs. Giles 2.3½, Mr. Drake 1.2, Mrs. Vernham 1.0, Miss Deberill 0.8, Mrs. Ruck 0.6, Mrs. Organ 0.6.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. Baillie Weaver (monthly) 2.10.0, Miss H. Fryer 2.2.0, Mr. and Mrs. Sadd-Brown (monthly) 2.0.0, Misses Collier (monthly) 2.0.0, Mrs. Harverson 1.1.0, Governors of Cripplegate Foundation per Miss Rendle 1.1.0, Mrs. J. C. Miller 1.0.0, Miss M. Gray 18.0, Staff of Monteith Road School (per Mrs. Rawlings) 16.0, Dr. Richmond 10.6, Mrs. Durrant (monthly) 10.0, T. Stenhouse, Esq. 10.0, Miss B. Harraden (monthly) 10.0, Miss Drury 10.0, Mrs. Lancaster (monthly) 10.0, Miss H. Raisin (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Reinold (monthly) 10.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Anon. Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, E.L.F.S. Factory Workers 9.0½, Mrs. Young 6.0, Miss E. Hickmott 5.8, Misses Black 5.0, A Well Wisher 5.0, Miss C. Hopkins (monthly) 5.0, Miss E. Gore-Brown (monthly) 5.0, Misses Barrowman (monthly) 5.0, D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), Misses Bellamy and Saunders (monthly) 5.0, per Mr. Evans 5.0, Mrs. H. J. Girling (monthly) 5.0, Misses Marden 5.0, Mrs. Richmond (weekly) 5.0, Miss M. Renthe (monthly) 4.0, Miss E. G. Phipps 4.0, Mrs. and Miss Kummer 3.0, Cuckoo (weekly) 3.0, Miss G. A. Barham 2.6, Miss G. Knight 2.6, Mrs. Dreury (monthly) 2.6, Mrs. Sell (1.0 monthly) 2.0, Miss I. Jones 2.0, Miss H. Reigate 1.0, Miss Lazarnick 1.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0.

COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Bird 13.10, Mrs. Drake 9.8½, Mrs. Crabb 8.11½, Mrs. Lambert 8.4, Mrs Ryan 5.0, Mrs. Rowe 5.0, Mrs. Collins 4.7½, Miss Forbes Robertson 4.4½, Miss Lagsding 2.7½, Miss Manicom 2.4½, Mrs Moore 1.2.

CLOTHES.—Mrs M. Knight, Mrs A. Pitkin.
EGGS.—Mrs. Powell.
FLOUR.—Mr. Wickert.
GROCERIES.—Miss Batson.

Miss A. Metcalfe 10.0.0, Miss Olive Willis 5.0.0, E. M. Cooksedge 2.10.0, Mrs. Julius Singer 1.2.7, Miss Ashleigh (Sunday School) 1.6.5, Mrs Butterworth 1.0.0, Miss Gertrude Halsey 1.0.0, Mrs. Gvad 1.0.0, Mrs. Kendall 10.0, Sir William Byles 10.0, The Misses Purday 4.0, Edward Walton 2.0, A. T. Muriott 1.0, E. H. 1.0, A Friend per Miss Manicom 2.6.

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